

through which they pass supporting the convicts. And as to the other roads discharging into these, I advise that some other method for their construction and repairing be devised.

I am happy to be able to state that an increased interest is manifested among all classes in popular education. This is, I believe, mainly due to the action of the last Legislature in appropriating money for the establishment of Normal Schools. In accordance with the law the Board of Education established one for the whites at the University and decided to locate one for the blacks at Fayetteville, in a building tendered by the colored people of that place. They were established on somewhat different systems, regard being had to the circumstances of each race. It was considered that the white race had already many educated teachers who simply needed instruction in the art of teaching, while the blacks needed teachers instructed in both the elements of learning and the art of teaching. For the one therefore a six weeks school was held at Chapel Hill during the summer vacations, and for the other a permanent school was established in Fayetteville. Both have been remarkably successful—at the first session of the white school 225 teachers attended, and at the second one—the past summer, more than 400 teachers were present, representing about sixty counties. An excellent corps of instructors were employed, the University gave the use of its buildings, its libraries, laboratories and apparatus. The railroads very generously gave reduced rates, the agent of the Peabody fund supplemented the appropriation with a handsome donation, and every dollar that could be spared was used to equalize the benefits of the State's bounty by paying the traveling expenses of the more indigent. Lectures by distinguished citizens of the State on popular themes were delivered almost daily with the best results. The undoubted effort of the whole was to arouse an enthusiastic interest in behalf of popular education among a large portion of our people, and